



April 1983

Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout  
Unlimited, Inc.  
P.O. Box 285  
Lake Katrine, N.Y. 12449

Ref: Esopus Creek, New York - Prattsville Pumped Storage  
Project, FERC No. 2729

Dear Fellow Trout Fisherman:

Once again, I write to you on an issue of great importance to trout fishermen, the fate of the Esopus Creek. The Esopus is located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains. Early American trout fishing was nurtured here and today the stream is one of the finest wild trout streams in the northeast. The future of the stream remains threatened by a proposal of the Power Authority of the State of New York (PASNY) to build a pumped storage project at Prattsville. The construction and operation of this project would increase the water temperature and turbidity levels of Esopus Creek thus destroying its wild trout fishery.

1983 marks the beginning of the eighth year of Trout Unlimited's involvement on this issue. Our past successes have been due to YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT.

In October of 1981 licensing proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Washington, D.C. concluded after fifteen months of hearings resulting in over 16,900 pages of transcript and one of the largest records in FERC's history. FERC Staff opposed the project on grounds of need, economics, and environmental impact while the FERC Administrative Law Judge supported it only if PASNY could obtain a required 401 Water Quality Certification Permit.

In April of 1982 N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Robert Flacke denied PASNY its required 401 Water Quality Certification Permit because of the project's adverse environmental impacts upon Esopus Creek and Schoharie Reservoir. At present this decision is being appealed by PASNY in the New York State Courts, however, we are very optimistic with the eventual outcome.

As of this writing, the project is opposed by the staffs of: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation. All of these agencies' staffs have concluded that the project has unmitigatable fishery impacts upon Esopus Creek.

To date we have spent over \$160,000 participating in state and federal hearings on this issue in support of Trout Unlimited's position. This was largely due to your financial support in this past.

Now we find all of our efforts in jeopardy due to active lobbying by project supporters on a new state governor and new DEC commissioner.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TODAY!

The political winds in New York's state capital suggest that the fate of the Esopus Creek could be decided upon politics rather than technical data and project merit. Efforts are underway to undo former DEC Commissioner Flacke's 401 Water Quality Certification Permit denial. Project supporters attempted to change state and federal laws last year in an effort to circumvent the 401 denial. They were unsuccessful. Now they are lobbying for project support from the new governor and new DEC commissioner.

We need to educate Governor Cuomo on the project's adverse impacts. We need to let Governor Cuomo know that the Esopus Creek is a trout stream of national reputation and that we are concerned over its future.

I know that we have appealed for your support many times in the past and now, again, I ask for your help today. Seven years of effort, thousands of man-hours invested, \$160,000 spent, but more importantly tweleve miles of wild trout stream could be lost forever.

PLEASE, WRITE TODAY.

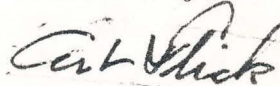
A sample letter is enclosed for your reference. Hand write or type your letter, but please act now.

Write to:

Hon. Mario M. Cuomo  
Governor, State of New York  
Capitol Building  
Albany, New York 12224

With YOUR continued help and support, we will see the successful completion of this issue.

Sincerely,



Art Flick  
Director,  
Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout  
Unlimited, Inc.

P.S. Out-of-state letters demonstrate the national significance of the Esopus Creek. They reflect a concern about a state resource that translates into tourist dollars and economic impact.

SAMPLE LETTER

date  
your address

Hon. Mario M. Cuomo  
Governor, State of New York  
Capitol Building  
Albany, N.Y. 12224

Ref: Esopus Creek - Prattsville pumped storage project

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing you in opposition to the Prattsville pumped storage project proposed by the Power Authority of the State of New York.

The environmental impacts of this project have been reviewed by the staffs of: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation. All of these agencies have concluded that the project will destroy the wild trout fishery of Esopus Creek and that the project's impacts can not be mitigated.

Futhermore, the Power Authority has stated that the electricity generated by this project is not needed until after the year 2000 to meet N.Y.S. electrical demand. In addition, the Staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has concluded that the project is not needed and uneconomical.

The wild trout fishery of the Esopus Creek is national treasure that is not worth sacrificing over a project that is not needed and of questionable value.

I request your support in opposing this project and ask that you do everything in your power to insure that the staff of the Department of Environmental Conservation proceed on this issue unhindered by political interference.

I await your response.

Sincerely,

your name



# Trout Fishing For Tomorrow.



DEFENSE FUND



ESOPUS CREEK

**“Support Quality Trout Fishing”**



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**HELP SAVE**  
**ESOPUS CREEK**